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the same subject*. Such a measure may be confidently left to stand on its own merits. If 'the proper study of mankind be man,' the value of statistical information can no longer be doubted. It stimulates the benevolence, and gives aim and effect to the energies, of the philanthropist; it furnishes the legislator with materials on which to found remedial measures for social derangement, and plans for increasing the mass of social happiness; and though its conclusions often consist in a bare numerical statement of aggregate results, yet they come home with all the authority of stubborn facts, and often tell more than the most elaborate moral appeal. From information thus furnished, it cannot be questioned that the public attention has been fastened, with an intensity never before given to the subject, upon the physical and moral degradation of the poorer classes in the metropolis and many of our large towns. The appeal thus made has been nobly responded to; the dry facts have been interpreted; and means have been adopted for carrying the blessings of education, order, and virtue into those dark recesses where ignorance, vice, and misrule appeared to have fortified themselves in impenetrable obscurity. It shall be no unworthy object of your Society to take a part, however humble, in furthering investigations which help to solve problems of deep social and economical importance; which instruct and interest us in the physical and moral condition of our fellow-men; which point out the fulcrum on which to rest the lever in our endeavours to remove the mass of sin and misery which depresses so large a portion of our species; and which thus enable us to associate more immediately scientific and intellectual pursuits with works of benevolence and the rich luxury of doing good."

## RECENT STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Tables, exhibiting the Condition and Products of certain Branches of Industry in Massachusetts. By the Secretary of the Commonwealth. Boston, 1838.

The Legislature of Massachusetts has just published a Summary of Official Returns, exhibiting the extent and value of all the principal branches of industry within the State. In April, 1837, an Act was passed directing the assessors of each town in the Commonwealth to collect the required information, or to employ some other suitable person for that purpose; and enacting that the parties thus employed should receive 1¼ dollar per day from the public Treasury.

The following abstract of the cotton manufacture will serve as a specimen of the information contained in the volume:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Number of cotton-mills | | 282 |
| ,, ,, spindles | | 565,031 |
| Quantities of cotton consumed in year ending 5th April, 1837 | | lbs. 37,275,917 |
| ,, cotton goods manufactured | ditto | yds. 126,319,221 |
| Value of ditto | ditto | dollars 13,056,659 |
| Number of males employed | | 4,997 |
| ,, females ,, | | 14,757 |
| Capital invested in cotton-mills | | dollars 14,369,719 |

Histoire Statistique et Morale des Enfans Trouvés. Par J. F. Terme, et J. B. Monfalcon. Paris, 1837.

* A Premium of Ten Pounds by Sir C. Lemon, Bart., M.P., F.R.S., &c., Vice President of the Statistical Society of London, for the best Essay on the Statistics of the County of Cornwall.

Ducpetiaux de l'état de l'Instruction primaire et populaire en Belgique. 2 vols. 12mo. Brussels, 1838.

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Statistical and Practical Observations relative to the Province of New Brunswick. Published for the information of Emigrants, by Alexander Wedderburn, Emigration Agent, St. John, New Brunswick. 1835.

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Statistische Uebersicht der wichtigsten Gegenstände des Verkehrs und Verbrauchs im Preussischen Staate und im Deutschen Zollverbande, (An Account of the principal Articles of Trade and Consumption in Prussia and the German Commercial Union,) 1831 to 1836. Compiled from Official Documents, by Dr. C. F. W. Dieterici. 1 vol. 8vo. Berlin, 1838.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

*Spain.*—The value of military and naval stores, arms, and ammunition, furnished to the Queen of Spain by the British Government, from the 1st September, 1834, to the 6th April, 1838, was 554,454*l.*; no part of which sum has yet been repaid. The value of provisions and slops furnished to the Spanish Government and British Auxiliary Legion during the same period was 2846*l.*, and those furnished to the squadron under Lord John Hay amounted to 31,673*l.*

Commons' Papers, 1837-8, Nos. 324 & 404.

*Poor-Law Unions, size of.*—Abstract of an Account relating to 501 Poor-Law Unions in England:—

| | Greatest. | | Least. | | Average. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Name of Union. | Number | Name of Union. | Number | Number. |
| Population in 1831 | Bradford, York . | 94,621 | Catherington, Hants . . | 1,950 | 17,302 |
| Size in square miles | Bellingham, Northumberland . | 331 | Strand, Westminster . . | ¼ | 78 |
| Number of Guardians . . . | City of London . | 127 | Hoo, Kent . | 8 | 35 |

No Return could be made of 20 Unions in Lancashire, and of 6 in Yorkshire. The number of Unions in Wales is 42, and the total number in England and Wales, when all are arranged, will be, according to this account, 569. Commons' Paper, 1837-8, Nos. 236.

*Travelling by Holyhead Road.*—The following comparative statement of the amount and description of travelling through one of the gates on the Holyhead and Shrewsbury road, formerly the chief route to Ireland, in the years ending 1st February, 1834 and 1838, indicates the change which has occurred in the traffic on this line of road:—

| | 1833 | 1837 | | 1833 | 1837 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Carriages and four . . | 131 | 72 | Saddle horses . . . | 1090 | 2099 |
| Ditto and pair . . . | 747 | 535 | Cart horses . . . | 1179 | 3823 |
| Chaises and pair . . | 143 | 97 | Cattle . . . . . | 4186 | 3020 |
| | | | Sheep and Pigs . . | 1427 | 588 |
| Total. . . | 1021 | 704 | | | |
| Gigs . . . . . | 536 | 1391 | | | |

Report of Commissioners, 1838.